

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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SUBJECT: CELU RESOLUTION SEVERING RELATIONS WITH AALC

REF: ADDIS 6634 AND PREVIOUS

1. ETHIOPIAN PRESS AND RADIO CARRIED STORY JUNE 4 AND 5 OF RESULTS RECENT CELU MEETINGS. PROMINENCE GIVEN TO CELU DECISION TO SEVER RELATIONS WITH ICFTU AND AFL-CIO/AALC, WHICH DESCRIBED AS "IMPERIALIST ORGANIZATIONS". RESOLUTION QUOTED AS SAYING "CELU'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS SO FAR WERE BASED ON POLICIES OF FORMER REGIME WHICH SUPPORTED IMPERIALISTS AND THUS HAD LINKS WITH ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSED TO VITAL INTERESTS OF WORKING CLASS... WE HAVE NOW RESOLVED TO SEVER ALL TIES WITH SUCH ORGANIZATIONS IN LINE WITH COUNTRY'S SOCIALIST AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST POLICY." RESOLUTION OBSERVED THAT SEVERANCE OF TIES WITH THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS ENTAILS FINANCIAL SACRIFICES, BUT ADDED THAT SINCE PRINCIPLES ARE ABOVE FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS, CELU HAD RESOLVED TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS DECISION AND FACE CONSEQUENCES.

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2. PRESS ALSO COVERED CELU CALL FOR NEW LABOR LAW IN ACCORDANCE WITH ETHIOPIAN SOCIALISM, FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION VIA SPECIAL

CELU PROGRAM FOR WORKERS ON RADIO, TV AND PRESS, AND FOR CLOSER TIES BETWEEN ORGANIZED LABOR AND FARMERS' AND TEACHERS' ORGANIZATIONS TO ENSURE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF MASSES IN ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION.

3. CURIOUSLY, ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING CELU FIVE-DAY MEETING (NOW CONCLUDED) CLAIMED 256 LOCAL UNIONS REPRESENTED. SINCE LAST CONFIRMED CELU LIST OF AFFILIATES GIVE TOTAL OF 189, IT OBVIOUS SOME NON-REGISTERED OR DEFUNCT UNIONS WERE INCLUDED AS WELL AS SOME INDIVIDUALS WITH NO UNIONS BEHIND THEM AT ALL.

4. ALLC REP SUMMERS REPORTS OPINION FROM HIS CONTACTS THAT PROCEEDINGS WERE MANIPULATED THROUGHOUT AND THAT IN LAST THREE DAYS WOULD-BE OPPONENTS OF RESOLUTIONS WERE AFRAID TO SPEAK UP LEST THEY BE LABELED ANTI-PROGRESSIVES OR LACKEYS OF IMPERIALISM. EAL UNION ABSTAINED, BUT OTHER OLDER AND MORE PROMINENT UNION LEADERS SENT UNDERLINGS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON WHAT WAS GOING ON. THEY REPORTEDLY DID NOT WANT TO APPEAR THEMSELVES SO THEY COULD MAINTAIN "FREEDOM OF ACTION." PROVISIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, IT IS SAID, HAS MANDATE FOR ONLY THREE MONTHS AND MUST CALL OFFICIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITHIN THAT PERIOD. MEANWHILE, GIRMACHEW, KIFLU AND YILMA OF CELU STAFF, REFERRED TO AS TECHNICAL ADVISERS, HAVE HAD STRONG INFLUENCE ON DECISIONS REACHED.

5. ETHIOPIAN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE GOING ALONG WITH CELU POSITION AND HOPES TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR ITS CAUSES, WHICH WILL BE BROUGHT TO HEAD WHEN EDUCATIONAL REFORMS DETERMINED AS EXPECTED IN NEAR FUTURE. ETA NOT SEEKING DIRECT LINK WITH CELU AS IT WISHES MAINTAIN AUTONOMY, BUT IT IS LOOKING FOR MORE CLOUT.
WYMAN

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